Complaints from Members of Parliament against Drug Companies

*152. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

SHRI H. HANUMAN-THAPPA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have received a number of communications from Members of Parliament on various issues connected with the drug industry;

(b) if so, what is the total number of letters received from Members of Parliament from 1st January, 1990 to 31st December, 1990; and

(c) what are the details of issues raised in these letters and what action has been taken?

THE MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIA-MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period about 340 letters concern wrong inclusion j ex -of Parliament.

(c) Main issues raised in these letters concern wrong inclusion/exclusion of drugs from price control, under assessment of liability of the drug companies on account of DPEA, recovery from the companies as a re-sult of Supreme Court judgement, over-invoicing of imports, over-charging and non-implementation of prices, suggestions for review of drug policy, customs duty matters and licensing matters.

Most of these letters have already been replied to. As regards inclusion/exclusion of drugs, the Standing Committee is looking into these matters, On the recovery side, matters are being pursued and liabilities have been worked out in some cases. On the review of the drug policy, the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been noted and will be kept in mind at the time of review and on over-invoicing and over-charging, necessary action has been initiated against the companies concerned.

Loans to IDPL and HAL from DPEA

*153. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a 'fact that his Ministry have given loans to IDPL and HAL from Drug Prices Equalisation Account;

(b) if so, when and the rate of interest to be charged thereon;

(c) what amount has been paid to these units as loan or refund during-"the last three years, year-wise;

(d) what is the provision under DPCO, 1987 or DPCO, 1979 under which loan can be given from Drug Prices Equialisation Account;

(e) whether it is a fact that huge amount is due from these units un der Drug Prices Equalisation Ac count;

(f) if so, what is the total amount due and how much has been re covered;

(g) whether it is also a fact that still certain liabilities are to be as sessed; and

(h) if so, what are the details thereof and by when assessment in this regard is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIA-MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There is no provision under ' Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979/ 1987 under which loans can be given to any company from the Drug Prices Equalisation Account.

(e) to (h) Both these companies have liability to pay into the Drug